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Page 1 of 2

Attachment to Z-15761/82

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NPIC/IEG (7/82)

6 JULY 1982

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

THIPAPO MILITARY CAMP A/RN HQS, NAMIBIA

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT FACILITIES AT THE MAIN BASE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY'S 32ND BATTALION IN NAMIBIA.

2. (S/D) REMARKS: THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY IS UPGRADING AND EXPANDING ITS FACILITIES AT THIPAPO MILITARY CAMP AND/ BATTALION HEADQUARTERS IN THE WESTERN CAPRIVI STRIP IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA. [REDACTED] REVEALED THAT AT LEAST 28 BARRACKS, 16 STORAGE/SUPPORT BUILDINGS, EIGHT BUILDINGS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND A PARADE GROUND/ATHLETIC FIELD HAD BEEN ADDED TO THIS INSTALLATION SINCE [REDACTED] (GRAPHIC 1 OF 2). IN JUNE 1980 THIS PORTION OF THE CAMP CONSISTED OF AT LEAST 20 STORAGE/SUPPORT BUILDINGS AND APPROXIMATELY 100 TENTS (GRAPHIC 2 OF 2). WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A HELICOPTER LANDING AREA THAT IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, NO APPRECIABLE CHANGE SINCE 1980 WAS APPARENT IN THE STORAGE AND SUPPORT AREA OF THE CAMP (NOT ON GRAPHICS). THIS AREA CONTAINS AN AMMUNITION STORAGE BUNKER, A MOTOR POOL, A SMALL-ARMS FIRING RANGE, A HELIPAD, AND AT LEAST 30 BUILDINGS.

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(S/D) AT THIPAPO MILITARY/REFUGEE CAMP SOUTHEAST (BE [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY 3 NM SOUTHEAST OF THE MILITARY CAMP, AT LEAST 450 PRE-FABRICATED, SINGLE-FAMILY BUILDINGS HAVE REPLACED THE APPROXIMATE 250 TENTS THAT WERE IN USE IN JUNE 1980 (NOT ON GRAPHICS).

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(S/D) THIPAPO, WHICH IS CALLED BUFFALO BASE OR CAMP BUFFALO BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS, IS THE MAIN BASE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY'S 32ND BATTALION, A MUCH-PUBLICIZED COUNTER-INSURGENCY UNIT OFTEN UTILIZED AGAINST SWAPO IN CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA. THE 32ND IS LARGELY COMPOSED OF FORMER FNLA AND UNITA INSURGENTS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN AND PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES. THE NEARBY THIPAPO REFUGEE CAMP, WHICH IS REFERRED TO BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS AS WOODPECKER BASE, IS AN ANGOLAN

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Page 2 of 2

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NPIC/IEG (7/82)

6 JULY 1982

REFUGEE CAMP WHICH SERVES AS A SOURCE OF RECRUITS FOR THE  
32ND BATTALION. [REDACTED]

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3. (S) [REDACTED] COORDINATES 18-07-20S 021-40-54E.

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